

■ ENERGY

Wainfleet project would have five turbines

FROM PAGE 1

After some discussion about road standards and who would be responsible for it at the end of the construction phase, councilors voted unanimously to turn down the report, leaving the company with no access through the unopened road allowance.

We are doing everything within their policies and are meeting or exceeding standards.

John Andrews,
IPC Energy president

IPC Energy's president John Andrews and Tom Lewis, manager of planning and environment, were in council chambers during the discussion about the report and left immediately after the vote.

The two men had appeared before council earlier in the evening to give an update on

the Wainfleet wind energy project.

"We're not here by invitation ... or by government requirement, we're here in an effort to fully cooperate with the township and community," said Lewis.

He said Wainfleet Wind Energy, started by the Rankin family and the late Bill — was started in 2008 and as of January this year took on a new partner, Tom Rankin, CEO of Rankin Construction and Rankin Renewable Power and a Wainfleet property owner. At one time, Rankin proposed building his own wind turbines in the township, but the project was put on hold when the Ontario Energy Act came into effect.

Aldermen heard the Wainfleet project will see five 1.8-megawatt turbines installed in the Abbey and Station Rds. area. The turbines would generate 26 million kilowatts a year, enough to power 2,500 homes and reduce greenhouse gases by



Andrews

14,000 tonnes.

If the project meets all provincial requirements and is approved, Lewis said construction could get underway in the first quarter of 2013, with the turbines operational by the third quarter of that year.

He said the switching station for the turbines was moved slightly due to Hydro One requirements and that an archeological assessment was carried out on the new location.

"We're going to have a final public open house, but the date has yet to be determined, and after that people have 60 days to review the draft package of the proposal."

The draft package will be available on the project website — www.wainfleetwind-energy.ca — and at Wainfleet

library for viewing.

In response to questions from council, Lewis and Andrews said just under 0.8 hectares of land is needed for the turbines, but once built, farmers would be able to work the fields almost to the base of each tower. All of the utilities associated with the project would be underground, so once all turbines are put on prime agricultural lands, there are no overheads built in the middle of forests.

Andrews told councilors that people opposed to the project must take up their complaints with the provincial government, as it has the final say through the Green Energy Act.

"We're not doing everything within their policies and are meeting or exceeding standards. We are here tonight in a manner of co-operation, openness and transparency. We didn't have to do this, but quite frankly, we wanted to ... we wanted to show we're not hiding anything," Andrews said.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Wind turbines proposed for Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc.'s wind turbine farm will be similar to these in nearby Lowbanks. The same company, Vestas, which made the turbines for the Lowbanks project will make the ones for Wainfleet.

■ BYLAW

'We want our legal rights respected,' says group advocate

FROM PAGE 1

With wind turbines set for West Lincoln, by Niagara Region Wind Corp., reaching 179 metres in height, Atkinson said more low frequency sound will be pushed out by the blades and travel over longer distances with much loss. That private company plans to install 77 turbines in West Lincoln and Wainfleet.

"We are seeking protection of the health and environment of industrial wind turbines, from the noise and annoyance," Atkinson said.

She said the Green Energy Act has superseded laws that protect the health of

Ontario's citizens and undermined municipal council authority. She wondered if the laws of right are actually infringed on Canadian charter rights of residents.

"We want our legal rights respected."

Resident Andrew Watts, an outspoken opponent of wind turbines, also spoke at the meeting.

Watts cited expert after expert and studies from across the world that recognize negative effects of wind turbines on people.

"Evidence is being ignored," Watts said while calling for more studies.

"I can only continue by



Atkinson

asking this elected council to consider, and unanimously adopt, any bylaws or action they can take to prevent industrial

wind turbines being sited in Wainfleet, not only as the ratepayers' and sole plan, but also for the community, but also as the elected council for protecting the best interests of all members of their community," he said.

Ald. Betty Konc asked if



Watts

the ratepayers' request could be turned into a bylaw or if it had to be tweaked.

Town clerk Tanya Lamb suggested town planner Grant Munday could work with the ratepayers to come up with wording for a possible bylaw.

"Bylaws are a little more complex than just what they said," she said.

Munday said the township

would have to point to legislation that would allow such a bylaw to be created.

"The Green Energy Act exempts the Planning Act ... the province has taken away authority from us," he said.

The planner will work with the ratepayers and prepare a report for the next council meeting in February.

Konc believes council is under a legal obligation to protect residents.

"If we don't do our due diligence, we could be sued. We have to show we're making an effort ... we're being bullied into something we don't want to do," she said.

Ald. David Wyatt agreed

with Konc and said the measures have nothing to do with IPC Energy, which is within its full legal rights to pursue its own wind turbine project.

"We have to make a stand if we are going to make a change in government," he said.

Mayoral Jeffs said even though all decisions regarding wind turbines will be made by the province, at the end of the day residents look to their municipal officials for help.

"We can direct people where to go, but everything starts here at the township level," he said.

portraits

■ ACCESS: Company will use private land to get access

IPC Energy headed down another road

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — IPC Energy is moving on to Plan B.

Last week, Wainfleet township council defeated a report that would have seen the municipality lease the unopened section of Side Road 22, between Abbey Rd. and Concession 1, to the company for the Wainfleet wind energy project.

IPC C, working on behalf of Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc., had wanted to use the road as a route to access land for part of its wind farm.

IPC planning and environment manager Tom Lewis said the company will employ an alternative plan.

"All of the driveways and roads will now be on private land ... land we own and land under option through another owner," he said.

Lewis said the company is always listening to council and Wainfleet residents when it comes to the project, which started in 2009.

"We'll hear concern from council about covering agricultural land with driveways and roads to access our turbines. We wanted to use the side road to avoid covering up any land," he said.

"We'll continue to listen as we go through the Renewable Energy Approval process. We've update the township of our own free will and will continue to do the same moving forward."



Wind turbines proposed for Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc.'s wind turbine farm will be similar to these in nearby Lowbanks. The same company, Vestas, which made the turbines for the Lowbanks project will make the ones for Wainfleet.

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

All of the driveways and roads will now be on private land ... land we own and land under option through another owner."

IPC planning and environment manager Tom Lewis

of Natural Resources and Ministry of Tourism and Culture, three of the government ministries the company must deal with

throughout the Renewable Energy Approval process.

Up next, he said, is a final public open house, where plans will be open for the

public to view and comment on. Though no date has been set for that meeting, Lewis said it could be late March or early April of this year.

Lewis said if the project is approved, it could get underway later this year, but realistically speaking, it probably wouldn't start until the first quarter of 2013, with the turbines in operation later that year.

The turbines being used in the project are five 1.8-megawatt units built by Vestas, the same manufacturer of the turbines installed in Lowbanks, just west of Wainfleet along the lakeshore in Haldimand County.

"The turbines will be different from those."

Lewis said Vestas is a well-proven company.



Lewis

INPORT NEWS

Published by InPort News
Sun Media Corp.

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ourview

Winter surfing makes a beachhead

A wave of interest appears to be building in a winter sport that could find itself with a growing following in local beach-area communities. And no, it isn't ice hockey. Would you believe surfing? Tunes from the early '60s by California-based groups such as the Beach Boys and Jan and Dean sweep away our hearts and imaginations with lyrics about waxing those surf boards, riding the waves and "surfer girls" dotting the shoreline of California beaches.

Well, local enthusiasts of this rugged outdoor sport are taking it to the next level, in a manner of speaking. They are making the most of opportunities at various beaches in Niagara by making surfing a winter-season sport. Why let the cold weather stop you from getting wet?

The weekend just gone, by about a dozen surfers took part in Niagara-on-the-Lake Surf Club's Battle of the Great Lakes 2 surf contest: behind the Palmwood Hotel in Fort Erie. The weather outside was just right for the hardy participants in this competition – snow squalls, air temperature of -5C and near-freezing water. Most of us would have reacted and recoiled with a loud "Brrrrr!" just at the thought of dipping a toe or two into the surf. But not these surfboard athletes, who warmed up to the challenge Sunday afternoon.

Winter surfers say a beach nearer Port Colborne is a preferred site for winter surfing. Pleasant Beach, near St. Catharines, often has better waves than those at the Fort Erie beach, which was chosen to host Sunday's meet because the parking lot provides easy access in and out of the water and surfers are closer to their parked vehicles and able to keep warm.

Organizers of events such as this and participants in winter surfing can tell that interest in the still-fledgling competition is growing, even though it isn't in great leaps and bounds. They notice increased activity on websites and a flurry of postings by surfers and curiosity-seekers, a sign that people are taking note and wanting to know more about it.

Winter surfers say the events were not just Niagara-based. Some came from as far as Rochester, N. Y., and Toronto, an indication this is not merely a local phenomenon. It may take a while before the masses warm up to winter surfing but those who are not so faint-hearted see it as a sport with room to grow. Who knows, we may one day hear: "Let's go surfing now, everybody's learning how. Come on and safari with me" as popularized by the Beach Boys blaring out across local beaches in the middle of winter. Stranger things have happened.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

What happened to winter?

REV. THOMAS P. ARTH
First Evangelical Lutheran Church

When I was a kid, growing up in Burlington, you got snow in the winter. What's going on this year? I've got a bit going with my wife and three of my kids that before the first day of spring we'll get enough snow for tobogganing. So far they're winning.

The light dustings of snow that we've had so far haven't inspired us to get the sleds out. And the snow never lasts very long. A day or two after a snowfall it all melts away.

With the exception of a few days at least one day a year, school was cancelled because of a heavy snowfall. I think I can remember a year when we must have had three snow days. These days school buses may be cancelled because of slippery conditions but I don't remember the last time there was a snow day because there was just too much snow on the ground.

This isn't a column about global warming and climate change but from completely unscientific recollection, something does seem to have happened to our winter weather patterns.

Now, I've heard from plenty of people who are perfectly happy with this year's winter. Not everyone is a fan of piles of snow along the curb and on either side of the driveway. People who have become known as "snowbirds" head south to escape the

cold and snow of winter.

You can escape wintry weather by heading south to a warm and sunny place, but you can't always escape a wintry soul just by putting on a winter coat.

There are times when we need to have what some call a "winter spirituality."

There are times in a life when warmth, sunshine, and joy disappear. It might come when you lose a job, when a relationship is broken, when a doctor tells you the lab results are positive, when a loved one dies. Then we are left with feelings of sadness, shame, disappointment, loneliness, abandonment. There is a chill in your soul.

We all even voice feelings like these to the God we call good. At times like these people may cry to God, not in desperation or sadness, but with complaining. Some Christians can't allow themselves to complain to God. But it's no sin.

"But I, O LORD, cry out to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you."

O LORD, why do you cast me off? Why do you hide your face from me?" (Psalm 88:13-14)

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest." (Psalm 22:1-2)

The winter of the soul and complaining to God are entirely biblical. When someone is a Christian that doesn't mean that everything is always happy and clappy, smiley and nice. Being a Christian doesn't mean that you will never complain or that we'll never feel abandoned by God feeling completely alone.

But God is gracious. God is good. God never leaves us. God is incredibly and uncontrollably generous. God is irrationally loving. God never tires of giving. When God seems farthest away he is right beside us. When we can't see through our tears God is there in his arms and his heart beats for us.

Whether we like the snow and cold of winter or flee from it, nevertheless it comes. And just as surely as winter comes, spring and summer will follow. Our northern hemisphere will flip back toward the sun and from the warmth of spring and summer new life will emerge. Just as surely God can take the winter of our souls and warm them with the spring and summer of his grace and mercy.

I sure hope we still get a chance to sled down the hill at Lakeview before it's over. I don't want to leave home but I can live with winter. There are even some things about it that I like. I can also live with the rainy times for my soul. I certainly don't look forward to them, but I know that even then my Lord and my God is with me. And eventually spring will come.

COLUMN

Group 5 – Toy Breeds – Terrier Type

The Maltese Terrier is considered the oldest of the toy dogs in Europe. It is thought that they originated in Malta. They were probably given as gifts or purchased by explorers to take home to their families because the Maltese Terriers were small and white. They have a sweet temperament and a kind nature but are not really grooming to keep it looking nice.

The Yorkshire Terrier was developed from the breeding of the Maltese Terrier with other British terriers. Today they have a long silty coat somewhat like the Maltese Terriers. But originally they had a shorter coat and they were twice as big. They were used to rats in the coal mines, cotton mills and factories. It took many years to reduce the size as we know the Yorkshire today. Occasionally today breeders are still used to put a puppy in their litters that end up twice the size of its litter mates. It is a "showback" to the original Yorkshire Terriers.

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Sandie Bingley
IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

The Toy Manchester Terrier is an old breed that has been around since the 15th century. They were originally part of the Manchester Terrier litters. In a litter there would be a mix of big puppies and tiny puppies. Eventually they became two separate breeds. Both breeds were exceptionally fine ratters. In the 1800's they were used to hunt rats in factories.

The men put money wagers on the dogs that they thought would kill the most rats. Men would bring their best rat dogs to kill the rats in the rat pit. The dog that killed the most rats was declared the winner and his owner would take home some of the money. In 1848 an owner brought in a Toy Manchester Terrier named Tiny the Wonder. He took bets that Tiny could kill 300 rats in three hours. Bets were placed. Tiny did the job in less than an hour and his owner went home happily with tiny and all the wagered money. Today these little dogs are happy to be spoiled family pets.

■ COLUMN

Wind turbines meeting resistance for good reason

NIMBY's ... closed-minded ... we've even heard the term "whiners" refer to our council and our community when it comes to proposed wind energy projects slated for Wainfleet.

While I can't paint our community entirely with the same brush — some folks are willing to embrace and welcome wind turbines into our area, but we do have what we feel constitutes a majority that are not as excited the prospect or who simply do not want them here at all, and that is a good reason.

Two main reasons include the potential for adverse health effects and the concern of substantial property devaluation for surrounding homeowners. There are hundreds of conflicting reports addressing both these issues, and at the end of the day, it leaves residents with no concrete answer.

The first step our council took last February when the issue arose was to have a public meeting so we could get a true picture with regard to how our community felt and what their concerns were.

We listened in our council chambers as one by one, many residents rose from a gallery that was standing room only to express their concerns and plead with us to join the other municipalities in the call for a moratorium on in-land



April Jeffs
MAYOR'S
COLUMN

turbines until further studies were completed. By the end of March, council voted unanimously to join, at that time, the other 77 municipalities faced with the same plight.

In December, I joined with two members of our town council, along with Mayor Doug Joyner of West Lincoln at Queen's Park to voice our strong support for provincial legislation that would have restored local decision-making powers to municipalities like Wainfleet. Regrettably, that legislation was opposed by two of the provincial parties — preventing our local residents, homeowners, business and municipal council from having a say in where these massive construction projects will be located.

Currently, Wainfleet could potentially see two projects make our municipality their home. One is slated near the lake, the other in the North West portion of the township crossing borders with West Lincoln.

I know to many, Wainfleet

brings to mind sprawling acreages

of farmland, however, when you incorporate heritage sites, provincially significant wetlands and the 2,916 residences that make up our community, the decision of such magnitude isn't as easy as one might think. We are not unique as dozens of other towns have been forced to entertain similar projects and we feel rural Ontario has every right to question and even say "no" to such an industry setting up shop in our communities.

But as we all know, we do have that right under the Green Energy Act and the Ontario Energy Board.

Being forced to embrace something that potentially threatens our community just isn't cool. When elected, we were charged with the obligation of protecting those who make up our wonderfully diverse, close-knit community and if we're being asked by the masses to go to

bat on their behalf, then it's clear we have no other choice. So fault us for doing what we were elected to do if you must.

Recent answers about health, personal property and the ever-escalating costs of energy in this province. We believe it starts at the municipal level when setting out to find those answers. I could argue each aspect, but the truth is there could be several answers for each issue. That's the point. Nothing is clear when it comes to the feasibility of these machines.

Just as recently, Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) joined the ever-increasing concerned groups regarding industrial wind turbines. The OFA cited a number of reasons and stated that the removal of municipal input regarding such projects has alienated the rural population and

ignored competing community needs and policies. The minister of energy's response reinforces the notion that the municipalities are being left in the process ... or left in the dark, if you will.

Wainfleet council feels it's necessary that our new Official Plan that is soon to be approved supports alternative energy and forward-thinking solutions to protect our environment, however, we must move forward only after considering the impacts of these types of projects both financially and to our community.

On Feb. 28, our council will be presented with a planning report and two bylaws requesting two-kilometre setbacks for wind turbines in our township and 100% restitution by the proponents for property devaluation to the local homeowner.

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■ MUSIC: Elementary students hear their music performed

Symphony instrumental in teaching



DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Budding Mozarts and Beethovens at St. Patrick Catholic School had a chance to hear some sweet music performed by four members of Niagara Symphony last Friday.

The music wasn't by any of the classical masters, but by the students themselves. Grade 5-6 and Grade 7-8 music students of teachers Shirley Astolfo and Michael Caldwell teamed up with Niagara Symphony's Composed in the Classroom to compose the pieces of music.

"It's a three-day workshop with Laura Thomas, an associate conductor with the symphony," B.J. Armstrong, Niagara Symphony education co-ordinator, said.

Thomas is also an arranger, composer, percussionist and teacher.

Armstrong said the students, Thomas and musicians worked together on melodies using a xylophone. They also went over music and composition theory, exploring contrasting melodies and the sounds of the various instruments.

Once the students, working with Thomas, composed their pieces, they then worked with the musicians to refine how it would sound.

see MUSIC | page 7

Niagara Symphony members, from left, Gordon Cleland, Marlene Dankiw-Bath, Charlene Nagel and Douglas W. Miller play a piece of music written by St. Patrick Catholic School students.

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DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Niagara Symphony cello player Gordon Cleland performs a piece of music written by St. Patrick Catholic School students. The symphony brought its education program to the Port Colborne school.

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■ **INTERACT CLUB:** Teens take on new project



Supplied photo

Students in Lakeshore Catholic High School's Interact Club are running a jeans drive until Friday, Feb. 10. Students taking part include, front row from left, Bianca Borsigas, Taylor Hoppe, Leah Ahura, Brittan Dzilis, Adriana Gonzalez, Matteo Borsigas and, back row, from left, teacher-moderator Stephanie Colangelo, Hailey Fortune, Faithful Poku, Kasper Cleveland, Tamra Netttag, Elizabeth West, Jessica Lai, Hannah Polinski, Megan Brown, Rebecca Smith, Pat Quinn. Absent from the photo is Emily Armstrong.

Teens for Jeans needs good denim

INPORT News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Lakeshore Catholic High School's Interact Club is running a "Teens for Jeans" drive.

Teacher-moderator Stephanie Colangelo said schools across the globe are participating in the project to provide jeans to homeless teens in their area.

The project is supported by dosomething.org and clothing company Apostrophe.

New or gently-used jeans are being col-

lected at the school, 150 Janet St., in the main office and in front of the cafeteria until Feb. 10. Jeans will then be delivered to Apostrophe, which will tally and distribute them to local homeless shelters.

"We would greatly appreciate your donations from within the school and the community," said Colangelo.

For more information, contact Colangelo at Lakeshore at 905-835-2451. You can also visit the Teens for Jeans web-site at www.dosomething.org/teensforjeans.



**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT/
FENCE-VIEWERS/PROPERTY
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet invites area residents who would be interested in being a member of the following committee.

Committee of Adjustment/Fence-Viewers/Property Standards - 1 position available

Interested residents may submit their application to Tanya Lamb, Township Clerk. Application forms for this committee may be downloaded from the Township's Web Site (www.wainfleet.ca) or by picking up copies in person from the Township Office during regular business hours (Monday—Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm).

Completed application forms may be dropped off at the Township Office, mailed, emailed (tlamb@wainfleet.ca) or faxed (Attention Tanya Lamb at 905-899-2340), by no later than Monday February 13th, 2012.

For further information, please contact:

Tanya Lamb

Clark

31940 Hwy #3

Wainfleet, ON L0S 1V0

tlamb@wainfleet.ca

905-899-3463 x. 226

inPortbriefs

BUDGET TALKS

WAINFLEET — The township held a pre-budget meeting on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in council chambers.

"We've introduced this as a new opportunity to invite the public to come out and provide input before we move into our budget deliberations on Tuesday, Feb. 7," Mayor April Jeffs said.

Residents may also register as a delegate for the Feb. 7 meeting.

Wainfleet's capital budget for 2012 was nearly \$4 million. In 2011 residents saw a 2.96% tax hike, equivalent to \$3783 added to the municipal portion of property taxes for an average home assessed at \$208,625.

There was no word on what this year's capital budget will be.

JEFFS EMPLOYING SPIES

WAINFLEET — With the township's next council meeting falling on Valentine's Day, Mayor April Jeffs told aldermen she wants them all to wear red to the meeting.

"As the mayor who enjoys social occasions, I am hoping that while I am away from all of you and while you are away from your sweeties on

Valentine's Day, that everyone would consider wearing red that night and donating to the United Way as they wrap up their campaign in 2011," Jeffs, who will be away on vacation, said Tuesday night.

Jeffs joked that she'll have "spies strategically placed in the gallery who will report back to me to let me know who wore red and who did not."

Ald. Ted Hessels will be

acting mayor for the meeting.

COMPLAINTS TO DWINDLE

WAINFLEET — The township's bylaw enforcement officer has a backlog of complaints to get through — some dating back more than a year — but hopes to resolve most of them over the next year.

Last year 38 complaints were received by the township and

44 complaints were resolved. As of Dec. 31, 2011, there were 83 unresolved complaints with the township.

"Bylaw enforcement is a lengthy process ... it's my goal to reduce the numbers, but it takes time," John Boerema, who also acts as Wainfleet's chief building official, told the mayor in council chambers Tuesday night. "I hope to close most of them over the next year."

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SENIORS' DISCOUNT TUESDAYS

inPortbrief

PERMITS ABOVE AVERAGE

WAINFLEET — One-hundred-four building permits were issued in the township in 2011 and of those 18 were for new single-family houses, council heard.

A report from John Boerema, Wainfleet's chief building official, said 63% were residential, 14% agricultural, 2% industrial

and 1% commercial. The permits generated \$84,381 for the township, down \$18,996 from 2010 but still \$11,793 above the 10-year average.

Boerema, who has only been on the job for a short time, told council Tuesday night he couldn't speak to the various fluctuations.

"I'm not sure if there was any one single event ... the economy would have an effect though."

■ PARKING

Port Colborne meters could go digital

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Change could be coming to Port Colborne's mechanical parking meters.

A report was brought forward to council Monday night outlining a plan to replace the city's outdated meters with digital meters and pay and display

machines.

The city's old mechanical meters are difficult to service and costly to repair because of their age, Peter Senese, Port Colborne's director of community and corporate services, told council.

Parts are becoming increasingly difficult to find and more often than not the meters need to be replaced because they

can't be repaired, he added.

Port Colborne budgets between \$3,000 and \$4,000 each year just to repair the meters, said Dan Aquilina, the city's director of planning and development.

The pay and display machines, which cost \$9,000 to \$12,000 each, will reduce collection times, have a cleaner look, and make snow removal

and sidewalk construction maintenance easier with no polls from individual meters in the way.

"It's more cost efficient and effective to have in the pay and display machines," Senese said.

There are 94 mechanical meters that require replacement. Each pay and display machine will serve about 10 parking spaces.

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200 FITCH STREET WELLAND STORE ONLY!!!

■ **EATALY:** Great food featured

New store a remarkable addition

GEORGE DUMA
For InPort News

POR COLBORNE — To me it may be a cliché. But home really is where the heart is.

Many have left Port Colborne early in life only to return years later to raise their families here. It's the lure of the lakeside city; perhaps it's a perfect place to raise a family. And, of course, there are the family ties that bind individuals together.

Tony Spiteri, 43, and Claudia Seca, 42, met in their teens, while attending different high schools. Claudia was at Notre Dame while Tony spent his time at Lockview, later sold by the port board to the separate board to become Lakeshore Catholic.

"My cousin was Tony's best friend," Claudia recalls, and she and Tony became fast friends as well at the age of 15. It would be another five years, however, before the

two would start dating. And marriage would follow soon after, in 1993.

Claudia is the owner of the newest eating sensation in Port, Eataly Foods, a cafe and deli on the south side of Clarence Street between West and King Streets.

It's a remarkable addition to the city's downtown core.

Eataly is a little like stepping into a place of name-sake cooking Italy.

There are Italian meats and cheeses, cannolis and other beautiful pastries, antipasto-type items like pickled mushrooms, feta-stuffed hot peppers, caramelized baby onions, pickled eggplant and so much more. And there are specialty drinks like espresso and cappuccino. There is also an assortment of dried goods and lovely Italian bread as well.

The cafe is already attracting a bustling luncheon crowd, with its panini sandwiches, pasta dishes, salads and soup. It doesn't matter what kind of soup is offered

on any given day, it's delicious. There are a few tables as well as add to the charming ambience.

As Ida Miani's niece, Claudia spent her formative years helping out at her Aunt Ida's iconic Miani's Bakery and Deli on the northwest corner of Fares and Bell Streets. Couple that with growing up in an Italian family and Claudia's foodie credentials are sound, to say the least.

And then there's Tony's background in food.

After graduating from the business-marketing program at Niagara College, Tony took a job at Maple Leaf Meats for 11 years, working his way up the ladder before leaving the company as the vice-president of meat.

The couple moved to Victoria in 1999 where Tony took a job as the vice-president of marketing for Thrifty Foods, a grocery chain with 18 stores spread around Vancouver Island.

After three years, the couple moved to Edmonton where Tony took a job as the senior vice-president of marketing and business development for Hilldale, a Canadian-owned and operated poultry processor.

Following six years in Alberta's capital, the couple moved south to Calgary where Tony became president and chief operating officer for New Food Classics (NFC), a private-label company. The meat wholesaler acted as a supplier to the President's Choice brand and supplied steaks to outifts like The Keg, among others.

But as the clock kept ticking and months turned into years in Calgary, the young couple found themselves more than 10 years removed from Port. Only now there were three children on board



GEORGE DUMA InPort News Photo

Claudia Spiteri is carrying on a family legacy with her new downtown cafe and deli, Eataly. Claudia's aunt Ida Miani was the owner-operator of Miani's Bakery and Deli on the east side before retiring a few years ago. Claudia spent many hours of her youth working for Aunt Ida.

as well — Francesca, now 13, and twin boys Dario and Christiano, now 8.

"Yeah, it was, to a large extent," Tony agrees, when asked if the decision to move back to Port was family-driven, "but not entirely."

From a professional point of view it was also time to come back east.

"I had become a partner in NFC and it became clear I wanted to take the company in a different direction than it was going," he says. When it was clear Tony's partners

weren't going to agree, Tony walked away.

That was almost two years ago. The company recently filed for bankruptcy protection.

Not an "I-told-you-so" kind of guy, when pressed, Tony concedes, "Yeah, I guess I was right."

But that was then and this is now.

see BUSINESS | page 13

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■ BUSINESS

Owners relying on word-of-mouth for clientele

FROM PAGE 12

Tony is currently the vice-president of marketing for Pinty's Delicous Foods Inc. Meanwhile, Claudia, who "was lucky to have us home and raise the kids during their young years, is running Eataly, though she and Tony are a partnership in every sense of the word.

And as partnerships go, Francesca is right in there. She did, after all, come up with the name, Eataly.

"We had pizza night every Friday," Claudia explains, "where Tony would make the dough and we would all add our ingredients."

It was during a pizza night that the family began tossing around names for what they thought at the time would be a new pizzeria. Once Eataly was chosen, with the name, Claudia and Tony had the name incorporated.

"It cost about \$1,100," says Tony, "so we gave Francesca the certificate for her birthday that year."

An astonishing aspect of the new venture is the prices. They are amazingly low, what you would expect to pay at a major chain, not a small deli. That's coupled with the quality, something the Spiteris insist upon, and

buying locally wherever they can.

"We didn't want to stock a lot at any given time," Tony says. "We wanted to keep things competitive and sell on turnover, which also ensures everything is always fresh."

Having opened Dec. 1, the Spiteris are supremely confident in the city's downtown and thrilled to be a part of it in their hometown.

"And a lot of our clientele is word-of-mouth," Tony explains. "So-and-so talks to so-and-so and word spreads."

As the couple settles

into the business community, they are also intent on giving back. The Spiteris have already formed an affiliation with Lakeshore Christian High School's youth class. Students there are producing pasta dryers and they will be on sale at Eataly to the public.

"We'll sell them free of charge and the money goes back to the shop," says Claudia.

So after years of being away and starting their family, Claudia and Tony Spiteri are finally back home. And loving every minute of it.



GEORGE DUMM/IMPORT NEWS PHOTO

Tony Spiteri is a huge help to wife Claudia in her new cafe and deli. Eataly. Tony has spent his business career in the food industry, most recently as vice-president of marketing for Pinty's Delicous Foods Inc. Eataly deals in a wide variety of food products, including Italian bread.

RECIPE

of the month

FEBRUARY

Our Port Country Pantry

Apple Chutney Pie Filling

Make filling:

Peel & core apples. Slice in medium size pot. Skin apples on medium heat, until softs are soft to the consistency of applesauce (microwave on medium (5) setting until the same result is achieved). Add Cloves, Cinnamon & icing sugar, dissolve into the softened apples. Stir in Raisins, Currants & Crystallized Ginger, simmer for 10 to 15 minutes or (microwave on low (2) setting for the 5 minutes).

Preheat oven to 375°F (180C).

Make Pie:

2. Prepare your favorite pie double crust recipe for (2) 8" pies. Roll out 1/2 center over pie plate for the bottom crust, trim excess dough. Divide Pie Filling equally & fill the (2) pies. Roll out dough, then center the top crust over the filled bottom crust. Trim the overhang to be slightly longer than the overhang of the bottom crust. Fold the overhang under the top crust and tuck it under over the bottom crust. Fold both crust under so they are flush with the rim of the pie plate. Flute the edge or press with a fork to seal the crust. If you prefer a thinner edge to your crust, leave less overhang on the top and bottom crust when trimming. Make slits with a knife or pie hole with the top crust. Place the pie in the oven at 375 degrees F for 25 to 30 minutes, until crust is browned on edges. Cool completely before cutting & serving.

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■ HEART AND STROKE MONTH USHERED IN



Supplied photo
The Heart and Stroke flag was raised at city hall on Thursday, with Marc Lunt, Port Colborne zone leader, Mayor Vance Badaway, Lynne Goulet, Port Colborne zone leader, and Susan Chouinard, Niagara District Heart and Stroke area manager. February is Heart and Stroke month and canvassers will be going door to door asking for donations to help fund research to "Make Death Wait."

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■ **HOCKEY:** Organization wants to give female players a chance to develop their game in Port Colborne

Port minor hockey hopes to add girls, adult leagues to lineup

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

POR T COLBORNE — A new girls' hockey league is in the works for Port Colborne. Mitzi Steele, president of the Niagara Girls Hockey Association, says the organization's house league director.

"Over the last little while we've been asked by parents and members of minor hockey to look at offering girls' hockey

and an adult league," Rob Green said.

While many girls play minor hockey now in Port Colborne, they're mixed in with the boys, Steele said. She added the group is looking to develop a girls' hockey program and to keep it local for all girls currently playing within minor hockey.

"The girls' league is the next thing for minor hockey

to evolve and move forward," Green said.

Association president Bill Steele said as female hockey players get older, many are looking for a place to play. The group is looking to add a girls' house league for the 2012-13 season.

Catharines and Niagara Falls.

The hope is to keep the girls who start off in minor hockey

in Port Colborne with the new league.

"There will be rep and house

league programs with the divisions and the number of teams to be determined based on the number of players and various age groups that sign up for the league," Green said.

"We're in the process of getting things set up and organized in the next few weeks and hope to have more details released soon. We're all excited about this," Green said.

Steele said the new league will join the Ontario Women's Hockey Association and Lower Lakes Girls League.

Green and Steele said the girls' house league and the adult league will fit in nicely with the Vale Health and Wellness Centre once Port Colborne's new twin-pad arena opens next year.

"We're expanding our pro-

gramming based on the new facility," Steele said.

In addition to the girls' league, minor hockey is adding an adult league for the 2012-13 season.

Tim McAvoy, the association's second vice-president, said the adult league will be open to all ages.

see HOCKEY | page 19

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PUPO'S

Corner of
Maple Ave. and
Prince Charles
Drive

PUPO'S FRESH BAKED
FRENCH
BAGUETTE 250g

PUPO'S Bakery

FRESH BAKED MEDIUM
KAISER ROLLS
Pkg of 12

2 99

SPECIALS In effect Friday Feb. 3rd to closing Thursday Feb. 9th, 2012 • OPEN SAT. 8-6, SUN. 10-5, MON., TUES., WED. 9-6, THURS. & FRI. 9-9

CUT FROM CANADA AA AND AAA BEEF

PUPO'S LEAN

GROUND BEEF

1/2
PRICE

1 99

lb. 3 Pkg
Limit

CUT FROM CANADA AAA BEEF
BONELESS

EYE OF ROUND
ROASTS

SAVE
\$3.00
lb.

MARGARINE

1 lb Tub

1/2
PRICE

3 Tub Limit

DEMPSTER'S BREAD
WHITE OR 100% WHOLE WHEAT

675 g loaf

1 99

BRAVO
SPAGHETTI SAUCE

680 ml can



1/2
PRICE

EXTRA FANCY ONTARIO
AMBROSIA APPLES

99¢
lb.



CALIFORNIA SUNKIST
SEEDLESS ORANGES

2 99
Dozen

NO. 1 GRADE CALIFORNIA
"ANDY BOY"
BROCCOLI



1
each

CUT FROM CANADA AAA GRADE BEEF

BONELESS

NEW YORK STRIP STEAKS

1/2
PRICE

6 99

lb.

DELI Specials

Broadway Maple
BLACK FOREST
HAM

1/2
PRICE

3 99
lb.

Broadway Maple
HAM KOLBASSE

1/2
PRICE

3 99
lb.

Balderson Mild
CHEDDAR
CHEESE

1/2
PRICE

5 99
lb.

FRESH PORK

PUPO'S HOT OR MILD
ITALIAN SAUSAGE

SAVE
\$1.00
lb.

3 99
lb.

FRESH PORK
BONELESS

PORK LOIN
SCHNITZEL

1/2
PRICE

4 99
lb.

I Can't Believe
It's Not
Butter!



MARGARINE

1 lb Tub

1/2
PRICE

3 Tub Limit

Old
Dutch



OLD DUTCH
POTATO
CHIPS

1/2
PRICE

220 g Bag

1 49
6 Bag Limit

MINUTE MAID
ORANGE JUICE

1.75 litre carton

SAVE
\$1.70

1 99
3 Carton
Limit

Minute Maid
Orange Juice



ROBINS BREAD
WHITE OR 100% WHOLE WHEAT

675 g loaf

1 99

BRAVO
SPAGHETTI SAUCE

680 ml can



1/2
PRICE

EXTRA FANCY ONTARIO
AMBROSIA APPLES

99¢
lb.



CALIFORNIA SUNKIST
SEEDLESS ORANGES

2 99
Dozen

ROYALE
FACIAL TISSUE

Box of 88 or 132



1 99

ROBIN HOOD
FLOUR

10 kg bag

SAVE
\$6.00

9 99
2 Bag Limit

NO. 1 GRADE CALIFORNIA
"ANDY BOY"
BROCCOLI

1/2
PRICE



1
each

NO. 1 GRADE MEXICAN
RED PEPPERS

\$1
lb.

NO. 1 GRADE FLORIDA
GRAPE TOMATOES

2/\$4
Pkgs.

